Appl.No.: 09/522,421
Amd. dated November 26, 2003
Response to Office Action of August 27, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the application with all claims rejected. Reexamination and reconsideration are hereby requested.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as anticipated by McCree. The Examiner cited column ., line 21 through column 6, line 48 for claim 1, Figs.4a-4d as to prediction of Fourier coefficients for the pitch harmonics for claim 2, and column 4, lines 4-60 and column 5, lines 38-65 for strong and weak predictors.

Applicants reply that McCree has no indication of strong and weak predictors; rather, the only "prediction" in McCree seems to be the pitch prediction (column 5, line 29) as used with an adaptive codebook of a CELP encoder and the general linear prediction coding of speech (LPC). Indeed, McCree Figs. 4a-4d are time-domain signals showing the effect of the Fig.4c filter on the synthetic resonance decay of Fig.4b as described in column 4, lines 24-60. And column 5, lines 38-65 relate to measuring the speech activity of a frame and applying the appropriate filtering in response; there is no strong and weak predictors. In short, McCree does not suggest the strong and weak predictors required by the claims, and the claims are patentable over McCree. Also, note that McCree is one of the named joint inventors in the present application.

Claims 1-4 were rejected as not enabled by the specification and claim 4 was rejected as indefinite. The Examiner cited the lack of how replacement of a strong predictor by weak predictor could be accomplished.

Applicants reply that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how the replacement could be accomplished: for example, if the method were implemented as part of a speech compression program on a programmable digital signal processor (DSP), then the replacement is implementable as an "if" statement.

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